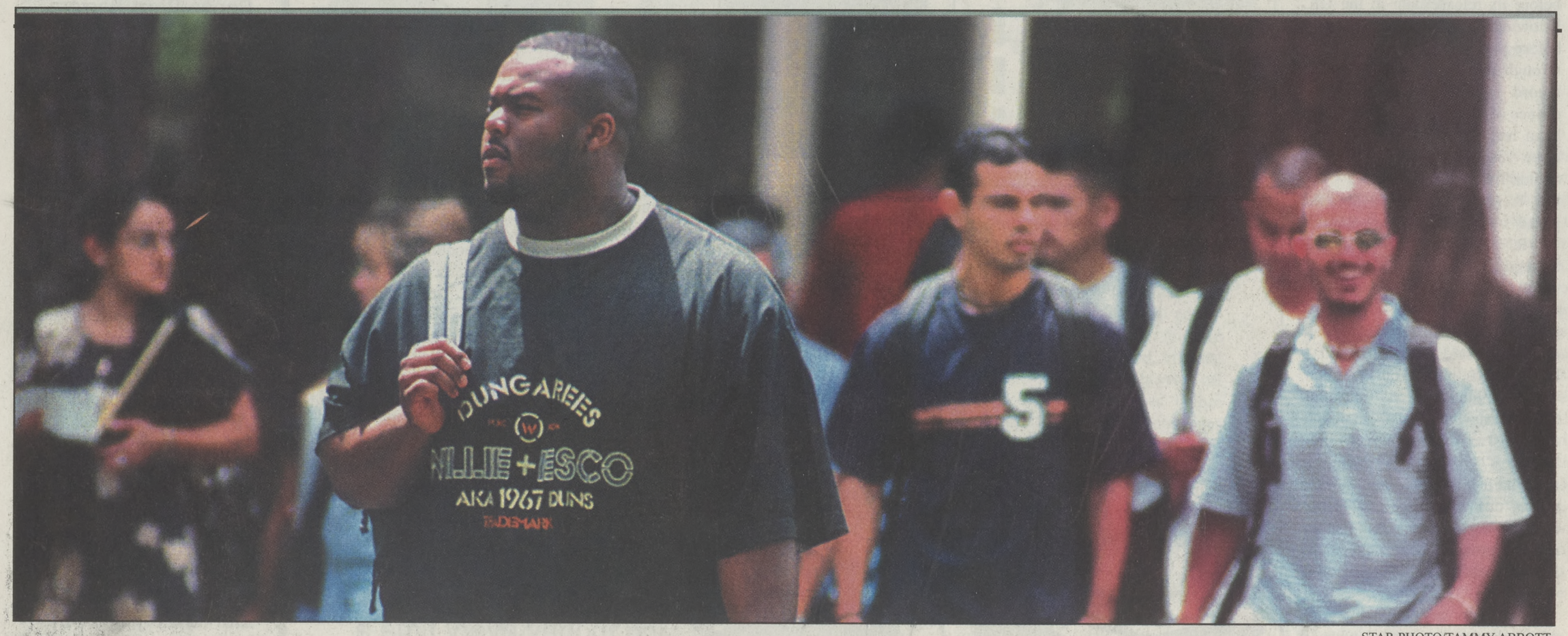
9-11-02

WWW.LAVC.EDU WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

The Valley Star

VOLUME 58, ISSUE NO. 1 SEPTEMBER 11, 2002 LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

WE ARE MOVING ON



STAR PHOTO/TAMMY ABBOTT

Many readers may be wondering why the Valley Star has neglected to involve the events of the World Trade Center attacks in our Sept. 11, 2002 issue. Although the decision was met with both support and opposition from the Valley Star's Staff, it is the Editor in chief's opinion that the events of Sept. 11, 2001 should be mourned, not celebrated. Those past events hold personal meaning for each citizen; our views may have changed but our lives have resumed. Students continue studying, teachers continue teaching, and those who remember do so silently. And so we issue this: our statement of silence; or, rather, our choice to move on.

Pepsi Canned; Now Coke is It

STAR PHOTO/SALVADOR AGUILAR

Valley student appears to be sandwiched between outgoing Pepsi and incoming Coca-Cola machines.

BY RICK POWELL
STAR REPORTER

Coca-cola replaced Pepsi vending machines on campus last week after a change in contract during the summer months. According to campus administration, Valley College's contract with Pepsi expired and was replaced by Coca-cola. Additionally, IC Twins, the vending company who supplied food products on campus, owed a "substantial amount of money" to LAVC and a lawsuit is currently being considered.

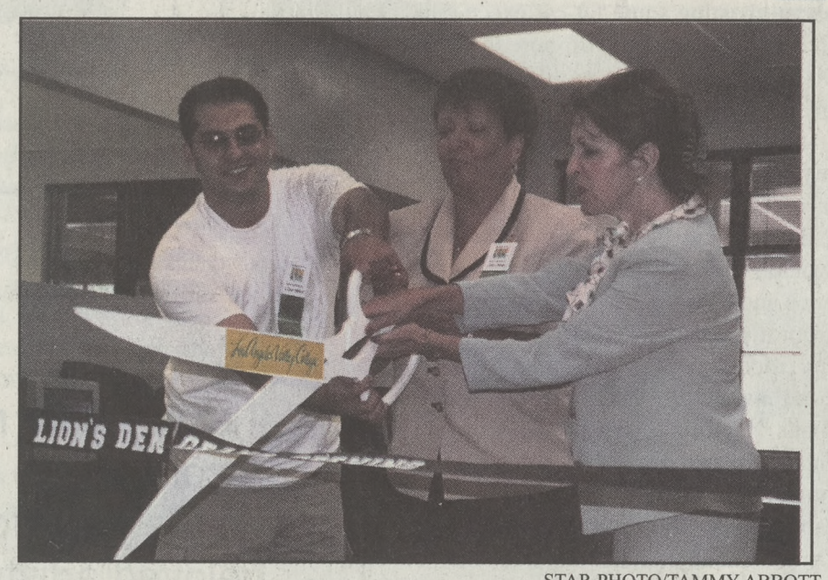
"The District General Council's office is evaluating the situation," Said Tom Jacobsmeyer, VP of Administrative Services, admitting that a resolution is not expected in the near future.

"(First Class Vending) seems like it's first class," and "Coca-Cola is the company," said Raul Gonzalez, assistant to Jacobsmeyer said. "Our main thing with vending is to provide service to the students." Officials at IC Twins were unavailable for comment.

Coca-Cola machines have replaced the defunct Pepsi machines all across campus. As one of the new vendors, Coca-Cola is very reliable and already provides fountain drinks in the cafeteria.

"College cafeterias generally don't make a profit, they break even at best. It's a service the college provides," said

See 'VENDING' on p.2



STAR PHOTO/TAMMY ABBOTT

Samy Kbushyan, Tyree Wieder, and Yvette Cruzalegui cut the ribbon welcoming students into the Lion's Den.

Lion's Den Finally Opens on Campus

BY SERENA DANIELS
STAR REPORTER

Valley College welcomed the new Lion's Den student lounge last week after more than two years of ironing out technicalities.

The grand opening was held Thursday September 5 at 1 p.m. with faculty and students in attendance. President Tyree Wieder officially cut the clue ribbon.

> "After the initial plans were set and the location was chosen we had to work out all the smaller things."

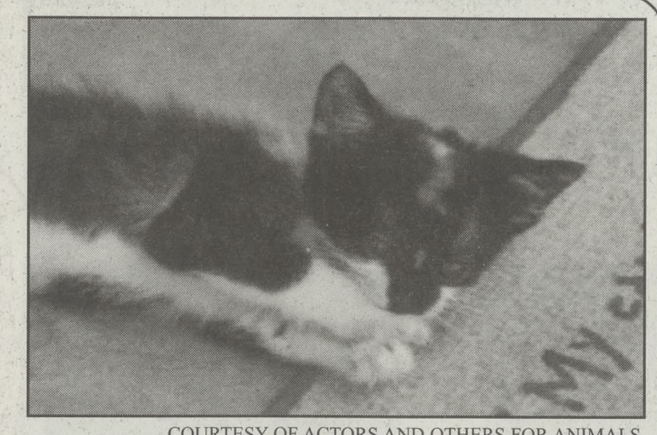
"It took us awhile to get it going," said Wieder, thanking those who were responsible for getting the new student lounge opened but we finally got all the technical problems worked out and have the Lion's Den up and running."

"Plans to open the Lion's Den date back as far as two years ago," said Yvette Cruzalegui, director of Title V, one of the programs that helped finance the project. "But once the actual plans were made, the hard part was making sure all the guidelines were being followed to get the necessary funds."

"I wrote a technical grant that would be used to buy computers and workstations," said Cruzalegui.

See 'LION'S DEN' on p. 5

Rights Group Fights for Cats



COURTESY OF ACTORS AND OTHERS FOR ANIMALS

This kitten barely survived a sever blow to the head and is now suffereing from permanent blindness.

BY BEN JAURON
NEWS EDITOR

Trooper lied bloodied and broken in the grass. His eye and temple were swollen horribly. His mouth was filled with dirt, mingled with the blood that was oozing from it. Insects swarmed over his body and flies incessantly hovered over him. When he was found, the rescuers were certain that he was dead.

The kitten was another victim of rising animal cruelty at Valley College.

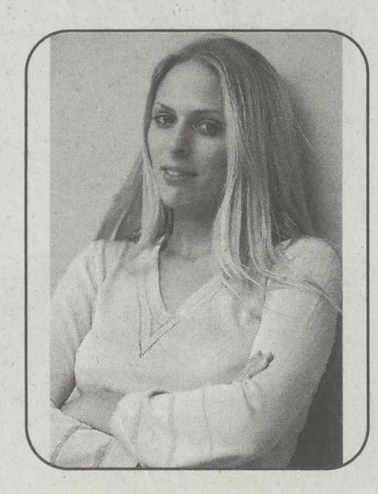
Cruel and negligent acts towards animals on campus is the concern of many at Valley College, with 22 known incidents in the past 18 months, according to the Actors and Others for Animals (A&O). Many members of the faculty as well as outside organizations are alarmed.

See 'CATS' on p. 5

2 Opinion

The Lowdown on Downloads

By Sterling Andrews



COURTESY OF DYLAN HAY-CHAPMAN

Three weeks ago, a fellow music fan sent me a link to his personal page so I – quite possibly the biggest Supergrass fan in the San Fernando Valley – could download the long awaited album six weeks before its release date in the UK. Knowing that it would be months before the new album might peek through the import shelves in US record stores, I jumped at the chance of hearing what my beloved band had been doing for the past three years. I needed to listen. I couldn't wait. I downloaded – and yes, I even ripped. I am now the proud owner of a blue-bottomed CD-R, labeled in sharpee: Supergrass: Life on Other Planets.

My singer/songwriter Uncle was appalled.

"Do you realize what you've done?" He said, brow furrowed, a hand on his hip. "You've stolen. You're a thief. How do you think Supergrass would feel about people listening to their album without buying it?" My uncle spent the next half hour lecturing me (as uncles do) with record sales this and starving artists that; but not one of his arguments could "guilt" me into believing that what I'd done was wrong.

I actually have every intention of purchasing the record when it comes out; any real music fan knows that the sound quality of an mp3 doesn't even compare to the crispness of an unaltered, non-compressed album. Plus, I want the liner notes. But my real point is this: music artists aren't the ones getting rich off of record sales, and I wouldn't feel the least bit guilty about cheating some fat-cat executive sitting atop a pile of more than 90 percent of the sale profits out of my $17.50.

Given the choice of spending my hard-earned money on a CD or a concert ticket, I would much rather see the band live; not only would I prefer watching a performance and hearing the music straight from it's creators, I like the idea of my money going to support the band instead of the label; after all – that's how musicians make their money to begin with. Ticket sales, not record sales, put food on the table for our beloved artists. And the availability of free music opens the doors to many would-be fans; after all, most people don't want to purchase a recording of a band they've never heard of, but they just might listen to them for free. If consumers left it up to radio stations and major labels to decide what gets heard and what is good music, bands like Guided by Voices, the Shins, Spoon, and Rocket From the Crypt would not only fail to pack venues but would be forced to produce music by industry executives who see dollar signs instead of treble clefts.

> "Ticket sales- not record sales- put food on the table for our beloved artists."

And for those of you who are strongly against downloading free music off the internet, I better not ever catch you in a used record store. Do you think the artists get any money from used record sales? I'd rather give my cash to a small business than a large corporation (and get my music cheaper, too), but if the argument against downloading music is to protect the success of the artist, buying used records is just as bad – if not worse – than getting the music for free.

Downloading music does more than take money away from major labels. It helps support independent music and the freedom of musicians to choose what kind of songs they want to produce. It keeps music fans listening to what the artists actually create, not what some executive forces them to write based on what the teeny-boppers are buying. I mean, come on – does anyone even remember when No Doubt was a Ska band??

By Cathleen Kennedy

"Everyone does it, it's no big deal." he said. "Sure they're making money, the record companies are rich enough," she replied. "Oh, I'll buy the CD someday," they chuckled. The lighthearted attitudes of most people about free downloads are what help them justify what they are doing. Or to quote Machiavelli, "The end justifies the means." Bottom line is it's wrong. Would you go into Tower Records and steal a compact disc? Ok, most of us are law-abiding citizens, right? Well, you are shoplifting when you download illegal copies of music; it's just on the Internet.

The online "sharing" companies (using the word sharing makes it sound morally approved) are really running a multi-billion dollar "pirating" operation. These freebooting operations are enabling "sharers" to property rights of musicians and their record labels. Remember that we have set up a legal system to protect individuals and the work they create. And way back in 1976 the Copyright Act granted holders exclusive rights. By allowing free music downloads and illegal swapping the rights of reproduction and distribution are in jeopardy.

Simple logic would seem to indicate that people would not buy CD's when they can get the same songs for free off online sites. Why would anyone buy an entire CD to get one or two songs they like when they can get those songs for free off the share sites? Who will download songs online from a site that charges fees in order to pay royalties to artists when sites offer the same songs for free?

> "Music companies are losing money every time a user downloads a copy of a recording."

It's not just what I'm thinking, it's what the "Big Five" were thinking when they filed a joint lawsuit against Napster in the winter of 1999. Come on people, can we really take it lightly if five of the biggest record companies in the world, stepped in to say, "look something is not right here." Music companies are losing money every time a user downloads a copy of a recording. And if you think these record companies are making enough money with out the sales of CD's, that's not the point. Theft is theft, and when someone owns something and you steal it, you're at fault.

Even though studies show the overall retail sales since 1997 have increased, sales at retail music stores within a five-mile radius of college campuses—where the heaviest concentrations of online music swappers seem to be located--showed a decrease over the same period. This means college kids are not buying like they used to because of the free sites.

Yeah it would be great, if musicians agreed to give there music to everyone for free and record companies didn't care if they made money or not. But it's not going to happen. We live in this country because everyone has the opportunity to wake up and make lots of money. And we live here also, because we have laws to protect us when we do.

The ValleyStar

Editor in Chief
Sterling Andrews

Photo Editor
Jorge Gallegos

Design Director and Online Editor
Renee Rose Barrera

Copy Editor
Kathy Arellano

News Editor
Ben Jauron

Sports Editor
Pedro Olivera

Reporters
Krista Carlson
Serena Daniels
Cathleen Kennedy
Arlene Mejia
Ricardo Miranda
Rick Powell
Todd Sabin
Nicole Sunkes

Chief Photographer
Daniel Cohen

Photographers
Tammy Abbott
Salvador Aguilar
Erlinda Olvera

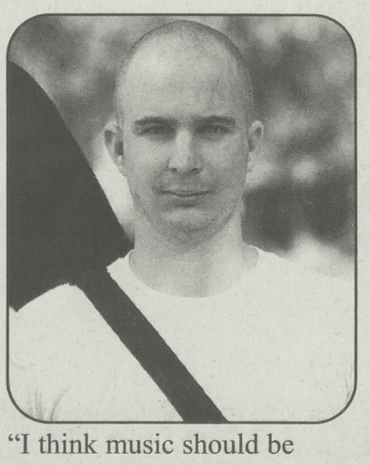
Advertising Manager
Nancy Kennedy

Advisers
Rod Lyons
William Dauber

The Valley Star is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Valley Glen, CA 91401, (818) 947-2576. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Materials published herein, including any opinions expressed and advertisements should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof. **Editorials** are the opinion of the editorial board only and do not necessarily represent those of the entire paper staff. **Columns** are the personal opinion of the writer. **Letters** are the personal opinions of the reader.

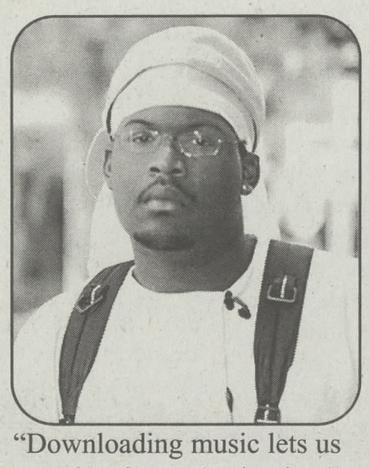
Campus View

Is it right to download music from the Internet?



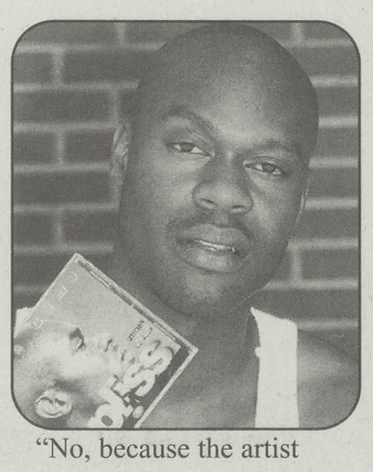
"I think music should be shared online to help spread artists'work."

Allan Ault
Music



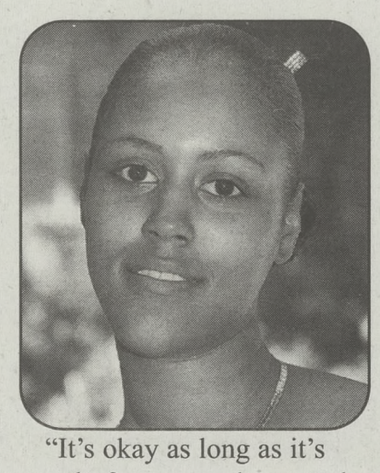
"Downloading music lets us sample what we're buying."

Brentone (no last name)
Business



"No, because the artist isn't making money from downloading."

Dominique Ford
Psychology

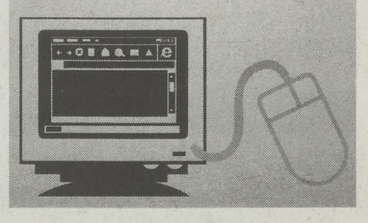


"It's okay as long as it's only for personal use, and not for sale."

Avery O'Neal
Psychology

e-mail
TheValleyStar@yahoo.com

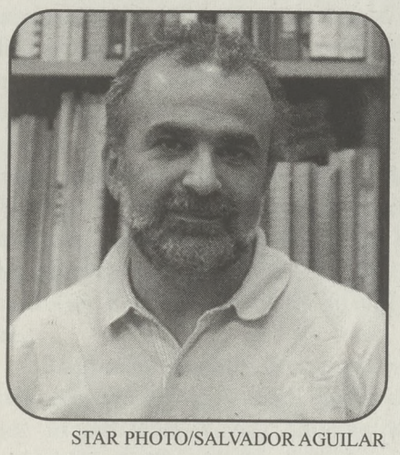
read online
lavalleystar.com



Valley Life

Valley's New Additions

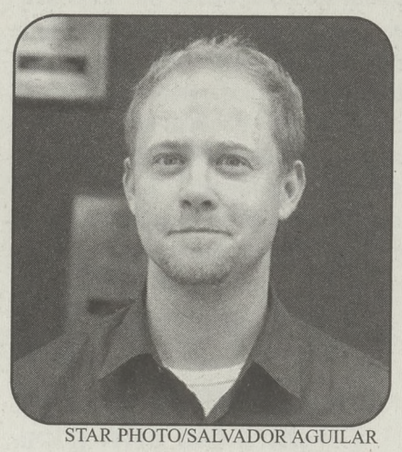
BY STERLING ANDREWS
EDITOR IN CHIEF



STAR PHOTO/SALVADOR AGUILAR

Michael Arshagouni

Previously a part-time instructor at Valley and City colleges, the school's new "resident musicologist" Dr. Michael Arshagouni says he knows the value and impact of community college education and thrives on the diversity of Valley's student population. The San Fernando Valley native -- who joined the music department to teach courses in music theory, piano, and music history -- says he hopes to someday bring different and expansive courses to the department. "I'd love to teach a popular music class," said Arshagouni. "Or perhaps a course based on music in the movies." Besides teaching, the UCLA graduate has published various research articles and composes music of his own, adding that "it's important to be active in many areas within the arts."



STAR PHOTO/SALVADOR AGUILAR

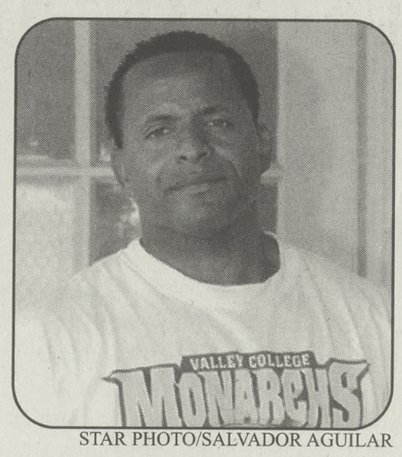
Josh Miller

In addition to a new instructor, Valley College welcomes a brand new debate program coached by alumnus Josh Miller. "I was teaching here part time in the spring," said Miller. "And my classroom was actually the same room where I took my first debate class. That class changed my life, (and) it's a great feeling to be doing something for the students." Miller, who also teaches argumentation and public speaking classes, earned his Associates Degree in speech from Valley college and continued his education at Cal Poly and Cal State LA. The former director of parliamentary Debate at USC says he's looking forward to running a successful program – with hopes of eventually bringing the new team to national tournaments – despite the recent budget cuts.

STAR PHOTO/JORGE GALLEGOS

Robert Parker

After a teaching career that has spanned nine years and both US coasts – from Phillidelphia Community College to Pepperdine University in Malibu – Los Angeles Valley College welcomes Robert Parker as the new weekend PACE director. Formerly a PACE Spanish instructor (the position was filled by new instructor Robert Rois), Parker hopes to help meet student demands for additional PACE courses brought on by increasing enrollment, particularly with the pending budget cuts. When he's not up to his ears in phone calls and questions, Parker volunteers for the American Association of Retired Persons and works as a docent at the J. Paul Getty museum. Parker is also enrolled as a student in a German I class here at Valley College. Says Parker of his first day in class: "It was great!"



STAR PHOTO/SALVADOR AGUILAR

James Sims

James Sims will be walking the sidelines this weekend as Valley College's new assistant football coach. Sims formerly taught high school science courses including biology, anatomy, and physical science as well as health and nutrition, all while coaching physical education after school. After fourteen years of hard work and minimal free time, Sims took four years off to run his own business before returning to coaching. Sims hopes that his appreciation for higher education will rub off on his students. "It's cool to play sports," said Sims. "But (athletes) really need something to rely on when it's all over. Get a degree."
Sims spends his time away from Valley College working on his new house, staying in shape, and enjoying the cinema. His favorite film? This summer's Tom Hanks release: "Road to Perdition."

STAR PHOTO/SALVADOR AGUILAR

Samson Yigezu

Alumnus Samson Yigezu returns to Valley College as a new addition to the nursing department. Yigezu received both his Bachelor's and Master's degree at Cal State Dominguez Hills after earning his Associates Degree in nursing at Valley College. "It's nice to be back," said Yigezu. "Learning never ends; I learn from the students and I share my experiences from when I was here." Yigezu hopes that his experience in the nursing field will also be an advantage to his students. "I've been there," he said. "I'm fresh from the workforce. I know what it's like to be working with current computerized equipment." After a year of nursing, Yigezu welcomes the "regular schedule" that teaching provides and plans to spend more time with his wife and children. "I'm happy to be part of the faculty; I always liked Valley College. It's a good school – a good learning environment. I look forward to being here."

Los Angeles Valley College also welcomes Frances Garcia to women's physical education, Dr. Sally Raskoff to sociology, Wendy Dufour to nursing, Robert Rois to PACE Spanish, Cathy Pyles to theatre arts, and Donna Olvera as the new Title V counselor.

Campus Scene

11 A workshop on "Creating a Culture of Peace" will be held today in Monarch Square at 11:00 am.

16 Free oral HIV testing will be offered at the student health center on September 16th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Dog Days at LAVC

BY TAMMY ABBOTT
STAR REPORTER

Breeders, judges and top dogs from all over the country gathered at Valley College over the Labor Day weekend, competing in various events and vying for the title of "Grand Champion."

The Burbank Kennel Club has been hosting the largest dog show in California at Valley for the past 11 years. Although it's a casual affair for spectators the competing dogs are groomed and their owners dressed in traditional dresses, suits and ties.

"It's important for everyone to look their best," said Valerie Knight, Burbank Kennel Club's public relations chairperson. "(I am) very appreciative of Valley College for their hospitality and for allowing the Burbank Kennel Club to hold their annual show on campus right before the first day of the fall semester."

Knight added that she hopes the faculty and staff will forgive the competitors for any inconvenience they may have caused while on the campus.

She spoke very highly of the Burbank Kennel Club's education booth for the general public. "This is the perfect opportunity for those who are interested (in owning a dog) to look at every kind of dog and to speak to the owners and breeders," Knight said.

"It was a real pleasure to host the Dog Show once again this year." Said President Tyree Wieder, adding that it was nice to see it expand from a two day to a four day event.

STAR PHOTO/TAMMY ABBOTT

Dogs were put to the test on the agility courses during the Burbank Kennel Dog Show held on August 30 to Sept. 2.

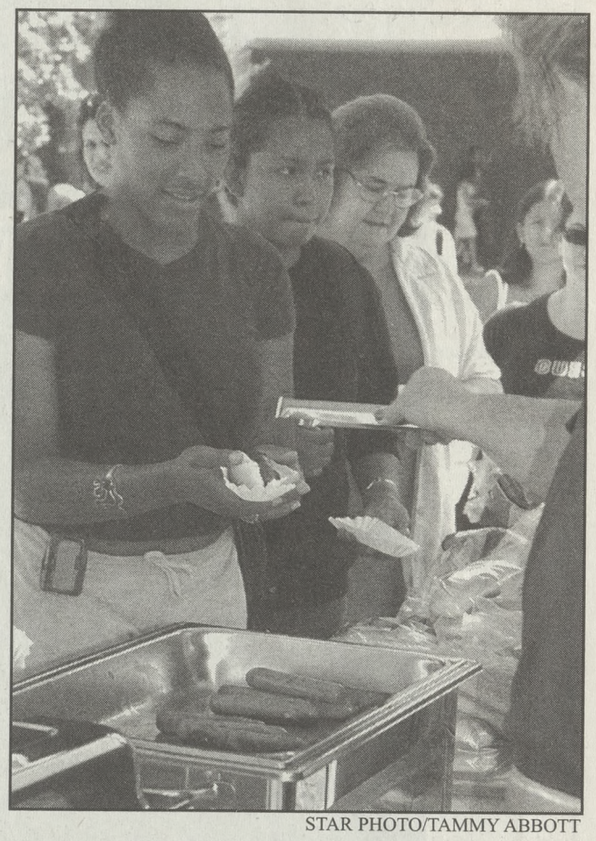
Hot Day, Hot Dogs, Hot Damn

BY TAMMY ABBOTT
STAR REPORTER

The Associated Student Union Hosted a "Welcome Back" hot dog lunch in the quad Sept. 4. ASU President Sam Vel Kbushyan manned the hot grill under a blistering sun to cook up the tasty dogs. Chips and drinks, which were also provided, disappeared very quickly during the two hour giveaway. The hot-dog giveaway began at 11 a.m. and ended when the last dog was handed out shortly before 1 p.m.

The many students scattered across the quad enjoyed their lunch, visited with each other and listened to the live music performed by Sol De Alegri (The Happy Sun).

"(I) enjoyed the free food," said returning student Eliseo Raigoza. "(And I) wish the ASU would have events like this more often."



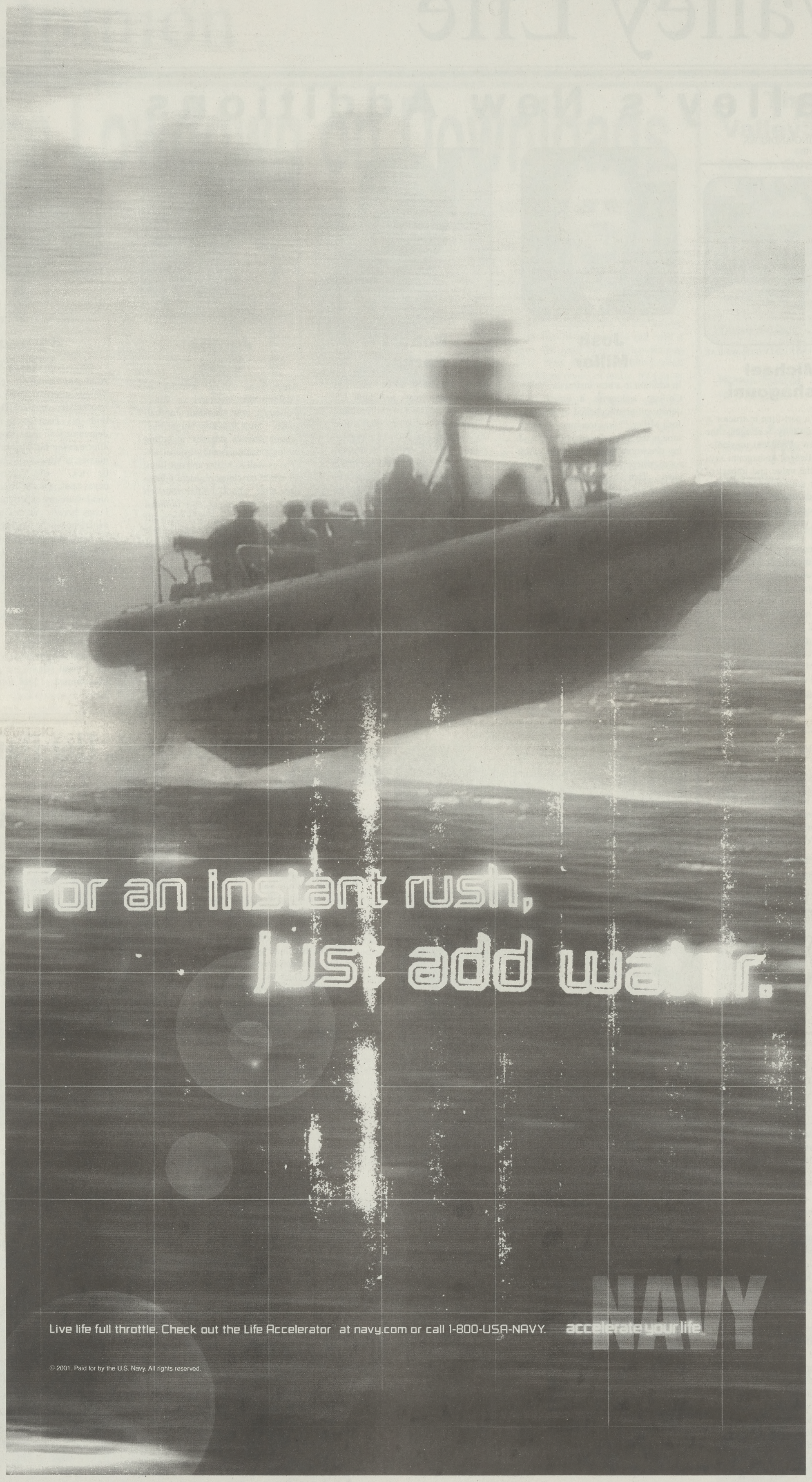
STAR PHOTO/TAMMY ABBOTT

Students enjoy the free food at the ASU sponsored hot dog give away on September 4.

outside the box

French students, unlike those of us in the United States, aren't allowed the second chance that community college offers.

In order to access the university system in France, students must pass the Baccallaureat degree in their final year of High School, and although the exam may be re-taken if the student fails, the exams are so intense that some students become anorexic or even commit suicide. Over the course of several days, students are tested, interviewed, and must appear before a committee to support their theory. If the student passes the exam, he or she is allowed to continue their education in the university system – all of which, from undergraduate to pursuing a doctorate degree, is paid for by the government.


For an instant rush,
just add water.
Live life full throttle. Check out the Life Accelerator™ at navy.com or call 1-800-USA-NAVY.
accelerate your life
NAVY
© 2001. Paid for by the U.S. Navy. All rights reserved.

Cats: cat killings rise on campus

"If I could catch the (person) who did that, I wouldn't need deputies," said local volunteer George Atkinson, regarding the bludgeoning of Trooper. Trooper was found in front of the Math/Science building last June, but was returned to health by A&O, though he suffers from upper respiratory problems and is permanently blinded.

Blue Boy, a cat that had resided on campus for 10 years was found dead on the cat feeding station beside of the foreign language building last April. The death took place over a weekend and the carcass wasn't discovered for several hours, making a necropsy impossible. Therefore it cannot be said for certain that foul play was involved in the death, but the animal was displayed—placed by hand—on the feeding station for all to see.

Even more recently, Bib, a cat who lives near the feeding station on the east side of the math/science building was locked in a nearby supply closet for over 18 hours on September 3. Atkinson and other animal rights activists are certain that the act was malicious.

Suspected acts of animal cruelty have happened at various locations throughout the campus, but most of them have taken place near the four feeding stations, especially the one on the north side of the foreign language building. 71 year-old history professor Jack Arnot, who tends the foreign language building station, now carries a disposable camera on a dummy cord around his neck at all times, just in case he should happen to witness an incident of animal cruelty firsthand.

There is currently a $2,500 reward being offered by A&O for information leading to the arrest and conviction of animal abusers, but criticism regarding its enforcement comes from within that organization itself.

"I'm not necessarily sure that the sheriffs are being diligent with their communications with me," said Joyce Peiper, program consultant for A&O. Though the animal rights activists are offering the reward money the campus administration insisted on posting the signs themselves, and Peiper was not pleased with their alacrity, saying that they were posted only after persistent reminders.

The wording of the signs is not what Peiper and A&O would have preferred either. The signs state "For information leading to the arrest and conviction," as opposed to "arrest and prosecution." Peiper feels that the word conviction is too strong a deterrent, as cruelty to animals is a very difficult charge on which to convict a defendant. Most significantly, however, is that the campus sheriff's telephone number is listed on the reward as opposed to her own. Peiper would rather have complaints addressed to herself than the Sheriffs office.

> **"If I could catch the (person) who did that, I wouldn't need deputies."**
>
> - George Atkinson, local volunteer

Aside from these issues, Peiper has few complaints about the administration's handling of the feline situation. "I'm very grateful to the college administration for agreeing to take on the humane method of population control with these feeding stations on campus," she said. "I'm glad that they've agreed to have the cats and the four feeding stations were built." Peiper is also appreciative that the feline feeding stations on campus were built exactly to her specifications.

But the cat issue is not now nor has it ever been free of controversy. Some say that school administration has taken a coldly indifferent or even cruel stance toward the cats residing on campus, but Peiper points out that the administration has it within their authority to remove the feeding stations and revoke Valley's cat sanctuary status at any time, the mere fact that they haven't displays their good intentions. As far as accusations aimed at individuals or groups are concerned, Peiper simply says, "I don't deal with hearsay."

All parties involved say that their goal and intention is to control pet overpopulation through the Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) program that is now in place at many colleges and universities throughout the country.

Nevertheless, animal rights activists say that the cat population at Valley has decreased by at least fifty percent and the issue of their whereabouts is widely open to speculation. The number of missing cats does not accurately reflect a natural decrease, even with sterilization, so the question remains unanswered. They could have migrated, but it's unlikely that the cats would abandon their food source, and with no cadavers foul play cannot be proven.

If the cats are being killed, and the intention of the killers is to remove what they see as pests on campus, then it should be noted that feline populations are stable in their numbers. What is called a "vacuum effect" is created and more stray and feral cats move in to fill the void, especially with the campus' feeding stations as a stable food source.

A&O is planning on implementing a "tipster box" somewhere on campus for anyone to anonymously give information regarding cruelty to animals. A&O can be reached through Joyce Peiper at (818) 222-8485.

Reward

Actors and Others for Animals

Is offering a reward of

$2,500

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in the death of any animal on campus.

Call LAVC College Sheriff to report your information - (818)947-2911

Posters like this can be found throughout the campus.

Vending: Pepsi fails to renew its contract allowing Coke to take over

Jacobsmeyer. According to Jacobsmeyer, the cafeteria on average recoups 90% of its operating expenses and the remainder is derived through vending. IC Twins was not paying their bill. The new vending company, First Class, has guaranteed the school $29,000 for the next year.

Other positive aspects of the vending machine switch include more advanced models along with a new driver refilling them on a constant basis throughout the week. Gone are the days of leaving behind merchandise stuck in the vending machines with Sur-Vend, a feature provided on all new machines, a person is all but guaranteed not to lose their money.

"If your snack gets stuck, a sensor picks up on it and keeps attempting to drop the snack down," Said Ryan Marsh, Vice President of First-Class vending. If the machine fails in getting the snack, it will automatically return to the customer's money. Other new features include 16 oz. coffee cups for those long nights of cramming and the change machines now give gold dollar coins; if a person puts in a ten-dollar bill, they won't be deluged by a mass of quarters.

Aside from the improvements in the overall vending experience, First Class is also installing a new area in which students can get food, evening out the distances between snack areas across the campus.

Lion's Den: students lounge in den

"This grant gives us the freedom to try very innovative things but at the same time, it took longer than expected because we had to make sure the money was being used the way it was supposed to."

The grand opening came just in time. According to Francesca Pagnotta, former Associated Student Union President, people started wondering whether the ASU was really doing all they could to open the new facility.

"ASU was getting blamed for it [Lion's Den] not opening," Pagnotta said. "The thing that people don't realize is that we had to make sure we were following all the guidelines that the technology grant set for us. After the initial plans were set and the location was chosen, we had to work out all the smaller things."

While the official grand opening was last Thursday, students have been using the Lion's Den since late July. Many students feel that the facility is an overdue improvement to the campus.

"It's very useful and helpful and much better than the library," said student Anthony Alba.

Students Kimberly Mirto and Yolando Brown said it was a cool place and that it will give the school more of a college feeling.

The Lion's Den features 16 computers with Internet access, an entertainment lounge with a satellite system, conference tables where students can congregate, with more improvements on the way. Located next to the cafeteria in what was once a storage area, the Lion's Den used to be in the basement of the Monarch building. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

DISTRIBUTE BROCHURES
$180-$525 Potential!
Work 1-2 hours a day
Monday thru Thursday-Friday
Perferably available after 2 pm
Car needed.
Must be ambitious to make money.
Call 24 hours
310-335-5650

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
All are welcome. Come as you are.
WORSHIP:Sunday 9:00 AM
Beverly Garland Holiday Inn
Off the 101 at Vineland.
4222 Vineland Ave.,
North Hollywood.
Parking on street free, on lot $4.
BIBLE STUDY:
"The Open Forum"
Monday 7:00 PM
at the Paradise Café
next to the hotel.
Senior Pastor
Rev. Beverly Tillman,
Rev Kupaji Jaliwa,
Associate Pastor.
818.723.2282

BLOOD AND PLASMA DONORS ARE ALWAYS WINNERS AT PYRAMID
EARN EXTRA CASH $$$

- 18 Years of Age
- Proof of Current Address
- ID Required
(Drivers License & Social Security Card)

PYRAMID BIOLOGICAL CORPORATION
Help end the blood plasma shortage
6454 VAN NUYS BLVD. STE 151
(818) 756-2080
ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS
SAN DIEGO - COLTON - LAS VEGAS
Special fees paid to hepatits B donors
Bring in this ad & receive a $5 bonus on your 1st plasma donation!!

Claims Examiner Trainee

Have you ever thought of being a Disability Claims Examiner? Do you now process medical records, examine them for coverage and accuracy, and make certain decisions about them?

Do you have an inquiring mind that thinks logically and analytically? One that likes to research cases and track down information? Do you enjoy putting together the related pieces of a medical puzzle and coming to a conclusion about what you see? Do you like talking with people who have been disabled and helping them with their claim for benefits? Do you derive satisfaction from seeing people return to work after experiencing a disabling condition?

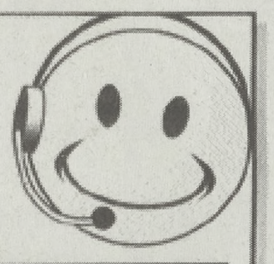
If you do, send us your resume. We are VPA Inc., a disability claims management company located in Calabasas. We have been in the San Fernando Valley for 23 years as a privately owned, independently operated third party administrator. We have a large client base of well-known national companies representing a variety of industries.

Due to our growth as the largest such TPA, we need hard working, loyal, honest and accurate Claims Examiners. We are an Equal Opportunity employer and offer competitive salaries and benefits. Please send resumes to: **VPA, Inc., PO Box 9830, Calabasas, CA 91372; Fax: 818-222-3082; or e-mail: jobs@vpainc.com.**

VPA

Visit our website at: **www.vpaweb.com**

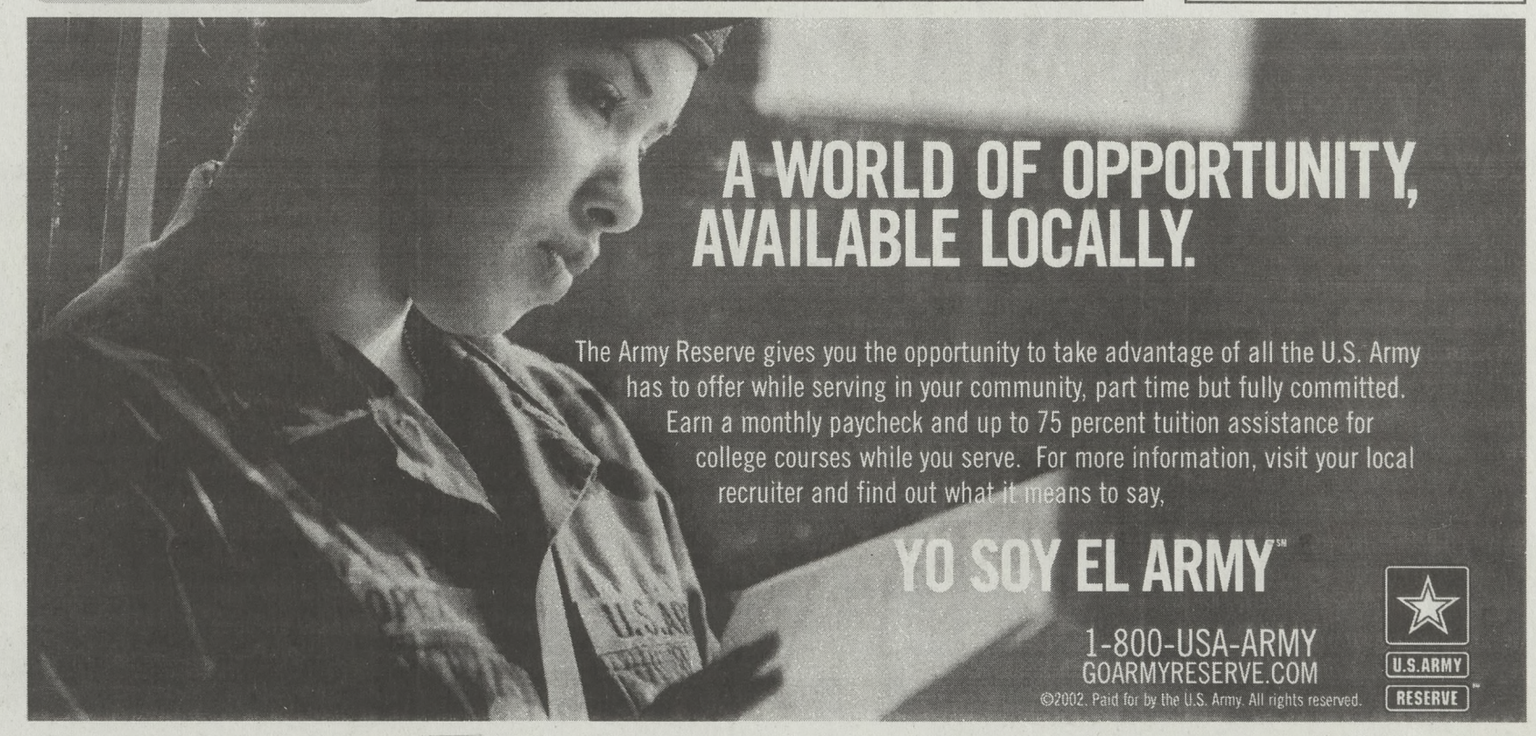
No Sales!



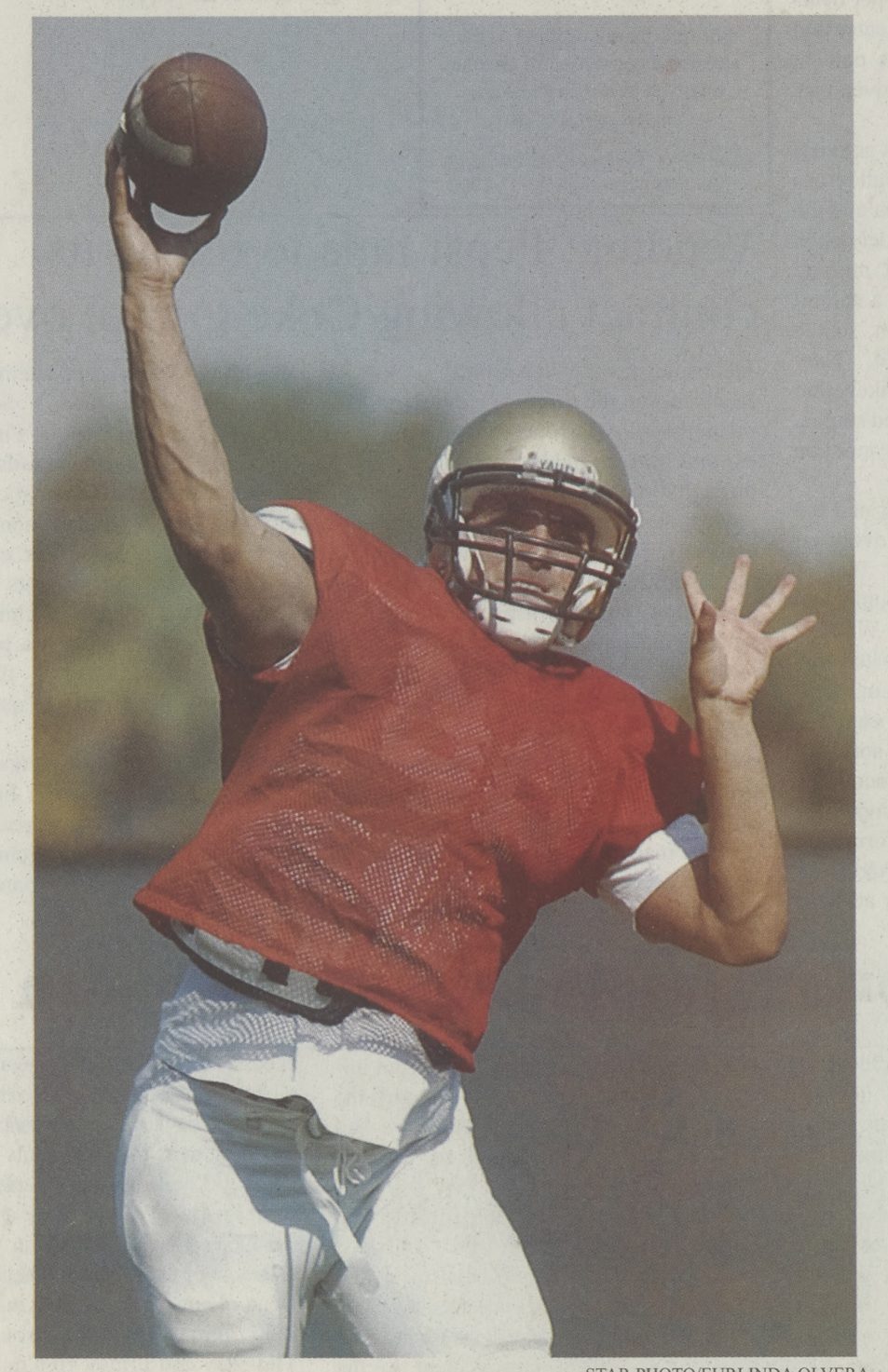
Market Research Interviewers
Full Time Positions Available - (Plus Part-Time and Weekend Shifts)
Benefits Include:
- Semi-Monthly Bonuses
- Medical
- Dental
- 401K
- Paid Vacations
- Daily Bonus
- Paid Sick Days
- Paid Holidays
- And More!

Earn Up to $15.00 per hour
call to apply 24/7
1-800-A-JOB-NOW ext.1416
www.movieviewjobs.com
Must have telephone experience.
EOE 08/02

Read The Valley Star online!
www.lavalleystar.com


A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY, AVAILABLE LOCALLY.
The Army Reserve gives you the opportunity to take advantage of all the U.S. Army has to offer while serving in your community, part time but fully committed. Earn a monthly paycheck and up to 75 percent tuition assistance for college courses while you serve. For more information, visit your local recruiter and find out what it means to say,
YO SOY EL ARMY℠
1-800-USA-ARMY
GOARMYRESERVE.COM
©2002. Paid for by the U.S. Army. All rights reserved.
U.S.ARMY RESERVE

6 Sports



STAR PHOTO/EURLINDA OLVERA

Monarch quarterback Salar Shakeri practices for the game against the Long Beach City College Vikings on Saturday Sept. 14. at Long Beach.

Are You Ready for Some Football?

BY VICTOR CORONA
STAR REPORTER

Questionable decisions and poor timing have this fan wondering if baseball is still America's pastime. Last month, baseball averted its second strike since 1994 and it took a home-run race by Mark Mcguire and Sammy Sosa to bring fans back to the game. The players' union and the owners agreed to a new four-year labor agreement last month that might have saved baseball for this season but might not have saved the sport from losing its place in America. The 2001 season ended with Barry Bonds breaking Mcguire's home-run mark and the Arizona Diamondbacks defeating the three-time defending champion New York Yankees in the seventh game of the World Series. A good end to the season. But not long after this exciting finish, Commissioner Bud Selig announced that Major League Baseball would be contracting two teams. Many experts believed that the two teams were the Montreal Expos and the Minnesota Twins. Contraction was postponed till after the 2002 season and the Twins and the Expos went on to have a solid first half of this season, upsetting fans for each team that a successful team might be soon lost. Baseball's second blunder came during the All-Star game. The game ended in a tie because the two sides ran out of players after nine innings. The season was further marked by retired players admitting to steroid use and some went as far to say that "80 percent" of the players in the major leagues were on performance drugs. Baseball has many problems, not the least is getting the players and the owners to agree on a salary cap, much like the NBA and the NFL. The strike talk turned a lot of fans off to the game and many of them said they would not return if the players walked out this year and canceled another World Series. Baseball has to be careful because fans have a lot of options theses days. And I'll I have to say America is, are you ready for some football?

STAR PHOTO/TAMMY ABBOTT

Brenda Garcia focuses on the ball at the first game of the season.

For more information
on becoming a teacher, contact CalTeach – your one-stop information, recruitment and referral service for individuals considering or pursuing a teaching career.

CalTeach can help you explore this exciting career, provide information about current incentives and benefits, assist you in understanding the credentialing process and, once you become credentialed, direct you to the teacher recruitment centers for job placements.

Make the difference of a lifetime. Teach. Call 1-888-CALTEACH (225-8322) or visit www.calteach.com

Cal Teach
CSU Office of the Chancellor